

Air Pouch

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : AMEMBASSY, MANILA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF :

452

DESP. NO.

November 27, 1956

DATE

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SUBJECT: Visit of CODEL-IPU on November 11-12 and November 23-25

The IPU Delegation arrived in Manila on two military aircraft at about 5:00 p.m. on November 11. In addition to the crews of the planes, the following people were in the party:

Senator and Mrs. Gordon ALLOTT
 Senator Frank A. BARRETT
 Mrs. Richard A. TORIN (Senator Barrett's daughter)
 Senator J. Allen FREAR
 Senator and Mrs. Albert GORE
 Senator and Mrs. Thomas C. HENNINGSS
 Senator and Mrs. A. S. Mike MONRONEY
 Congressman and Mrs. Henry O. TALLE (Chairman of the Group)
 Congressman and Mrs. Hale BOGGS
 Congressman and Mrs. John BYRNES
 Congressman and Mrs. Paul C. JONES
 Congressman Kenneth KEATINGE
 Congressman and Mrs. W. P. POAGE
 Congressman and Mrs. John S. ROBSION
 Congressman and Mrs. Antoni N. SADLAK
 Congresswoman Katharine St. GEORGE
 Mrs. RYAN (Mrs. St. George's daughter)
 Mr. and Mrs. William REED (Secretary of the Group)
 Mr. and Mrs. Irving SWANSON
 Mr. and Mrs. Lee IRWIN
 Colonel Roland K. CHARLES (Group Physician)
 Lt. Col. A. P. HAUSER (Escort Officer)
 Major George C. EBLEN (Asst. Escort Officer)
 M/Sgt. Francis B. YOUNG (Ballisted Escort)
 Colonel Willie JONES

State Dept. review completed. On
 file CBO release instructions
 apply.

The Embassy had had no prior notice that Colonel Jones was a passenger on the plane but this caused no particular difficulty as the Manila Hotel, where the party was all quartered, had prepared for such an emergency.

Owing to the fact that the group was leaving early the next day, and due to the circumstances of Ambassador HUPERT's death, no formal entertainment was

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planned for the evening of November 11. Due to the large size of the group, individual officers from the Embassy and other U. S. agencies were asked to assume the role of escort officers, making themselves generally responsible for individual members of the Delegation. They escorted the party to the hotel, assisted them in minor shopping, and saw to it that they did not spend the evening alone unless they so desired. The Charge entertained a few members of the Delegation at an informal dinner at his residence; the Manager of the Veterans Administration had a somewhat larger group at his residence; and other smaller parties were arranged either at the escort officer's residence or at local restaurants. The cooperation of the people who were asked to assume these roles was outstanding and seemed to be much appreciated by the members of the Delegation.

The planes left for Bangkok at noon the next day and many of the group spent the morning resting, others in minor shopping and sightseeing.

Hotel reservations were made for the return trip scheduled to arrive in Manila on November 13, but on November 17 a telegram was received from the Delegation in Bangkok stating that the return visit to Manila had been cancelled. On receipt of this telegram the hotel reservations were cancelled. However, on November 19 another message was received from the Delegation saying that they would arrive in Manila as originally scheduled on November 23 and listed the composition of the party. This caused no particular difficulty however, as it was possible to reinstate the hotel reservations and the party arrived almost exactly on schedule, Friday afternoon, November 23.

The device of using escort officers which had proved highly satisfactory on the outgoing trip was used again with the same highly satisfactory results. These officers saw to it that the visitors had something to do the evening of their arrival if they were interested although most were very tired after their social activities in Bangkok and preferred to rest.

The next morning the members of the Delegation came to the Embassy at 8:45 a.m. for a briefing in anticipation of the call upon President MAGSAYSAY at 10:00 a.m. The entire party, including wives, made this call to Malacanang and many of them described it as the highlight of their entire trip. President Magsaysay received them in his study, arranged to seat the entire group, and presented in his best form the story of the Hukbalajap. The President does this sort of thing extremely well. His easy and informal style and his cordial and friendly attitude toward all Americans makes a tremendous impression on the average visitor and the IPU Delegation proved to be no exception. Afterward, Mrs. Magsaysay served light refreshments and small presents were presented to all members of the Delegation including the ladies. President and Mrs. Magsaysay must have spent altogether about an hour and three quarters with this group.

Immediately following the call on President Magsaysay, most of the group went by automobile to the Manila Hotel at Tagaytay Ridge for lunch. They seemed to enjoy the chance to see the Philippine countryside and were impressed with the view of Lake Taal from the Ridge.

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One member of the Delegation, Senator Allott, did not take part in the foregoing activities. He had had wartime service in the Province of Palawan where he had become a close friend of Governor ABORDO who is now a member of Congress and Senator Allott had, on the outward trip, indicated a desire to fly to Palawan to see Congressman Abordo. Congressman Abordo was in Manila, however, and arrangements were made for him to meet the Senator on his arrival from Bangkok on the 23rd. The 13th Air Force made a plane available and Senator and Mrs. Allott and Congressman and Mrs. Abordo were flown to Palawan early Saturday morning where they spent the entire day. It is the Embassy's opinion that this type of trip is very worthwhile and Senator and Mrs. Allott seemed to be highly pleased with the arrangement.

On the evening of the 24th, Mr. BRENN, Director of ICA, gave a dinner for the entire Delegation at his apartment where he exhibited some short motion picture reels giving some idea of the ICA program in the Philippines.

The entire Delegation had been invited to attend the ball given by the Kahirup that evening and a few attended but most were by that time thoroughly tired and were anxious to get as much rest as possible.

The party left for Hong Kong on schedule the next morning and all seemed to be highly pleased and quite vocal in appreciation of the treatment they had received while in Manila.

Senator Frear, Congressman Jones and Congressman Poage did not return to Manila with the party on the return from Bangkok.

The Embassy has the following comments and suggestions regarding this type of trip:

1. It is suggested that in a party of this size the assignment of individual escort officers to members of a delegation is a desirable procedure. The Embassy officers who undertook this duty seemed to enjoy it even though no official funds were available to reimburse them for such expenses they might incur.

2. One thing that should be impressed on all Washington escort officers for such groups is the importance of advising the posts at which they expect to call of the full names and identity of everyone in the party. It is important that this information be transmitted as far ahead of time as it is possible to do so. In addition to the incident of Colonel Jones, there was a slip-up in transmitting the list of people who were to return from Bangkok to Manila. Congressman Keating's name was omitted from this list and the Embassy did not know until he got off the plane that he was in the party. In addition, the Embassy was informed that a Mrs. Crawford, who was later identified as the sister-in-law of Congressman Talle, would be in the party but she did not arrive with the Delegation. This sort of thing creates complications with respect to invitations for such things as the Kahirup Ball which was mentioned above where invitations had been prepared in advance,

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causes some complications in the matter of hotel reservations and, in this case, some embarrassment at Malacanang Palace. The Palace had been supplied with the names of all the expected visitors and presents had been prepared for everyone whose name was on the list. Such things are not of major importance, of course, but they can result in hurt feelings and considerable confusion on occasion and every effort should be made by escort officers accompanying such parties to inform the post exactly who is in the party and give some idea of who the people are.

In summary, however, the Embassy was well pleased with this visit. The call on President Magsaysay was, from the standpoint of public relations, excellent as he made a very favorable impression on this group.

Horace H. Smith
Charge d'Affaires a. i.